



State of Arizona

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Governor Brewer Reminds Travelers of Passport Requirement

PHOENIX – Arizona Governor Jan Brewer reminds Arizona citizens of the fast approaching deadline for the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). Beginning Monday, June 1, 2009, all U.S. and Canadian citizens will be required to present a passport or another WHTI compliant document to enter and re-enter the United States by land or sea from Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

"The deadline for the WHTI is here, and it is important that Arizonans are aware and adequately prepared when traveling to destinations outside of the U.S.," Governor Brewer stated. "Knowing what documents are required and having them ready when you return home will help streamline the entry process and ensure your return to the U.S. is as smooth as possible."

For Arizona, this federal initiative will primarily impact residents and visitors traveling to and from Mexico. Beginning June 1, 2009, the Arizona driver's license and/or Arizona Identification Card will not be recognized as a valid credential for entry or re-entry into the United States.

U.S. citizens returning home from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda, by land or sea, will be required to present one of the following travel documents: A passport issued by the U.S. Government, a passport card (PassCard), a valid trusted traveler program card (FAST, NEXUS, or SENTRI) or a Military ID with official travel orders. U.S. citizen children under the age of 16 will be able to present the original or copy of their birth certificate, or other proof of U.S. citizenship such as a naturalization certificate or citizenship card.

The Arizona Department of Transportation's Tucson and Safford districts will be placing temporary variable message signs at their port of entries, which include Lukeville, Nogales, Sasabe, Douglas, San Luis and Naco, four days prior to June 1 and one week after to remind travelers of the new initiative.

Information about requirements for special groups traveling abroad can be found at U.S. Customs and Border Protection: http://www.getyouhome.gov/html/lang_eng/eng_sa.html

Background:

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is a result of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA), requiring all travelers to present a passport or other document that denotes identity and citizenship when entering the United States.

The goal of WHTI is to strengthen U.S. border security while facilitating entry for U.S. citizens and legitimate foreign visitors by providing standardized documentation that enables the Department of Homeland Security to quickly and reliably identify a traveler.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

U.S. Department of State

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

http://www.getyouhome.gov/html/eng_map.html

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